



The Arlington Advocate



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Two generations of METCO success

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

If Coletta Mills were to jump on the school bus with her daughter, Brandy, she might take a trip down memory lane.

From their home in Mattapan, the bus would wind its way up Washington Street and head through Jamaica Plain along South Huntington Avenue. Then, it would proceed through the Longwood Medical area and onto Storrow Drive. Past the Harvard Business School Campus, up to the Fresh Pond Parkway. The bus crosses into Cambridge, and passes the pond, the pond rotary and the Rindge Avenue apartment towers.

Just a little further to go now. At Alewife Station, it quickly turns east on Route 16 and hangs a left onto Massachusetts Avenue. Then it depends on your destination: Hardy? Peirce? Arlington High School? Without traffic, it's a half-hour, but that's a rare occasion.

This is the trip Mills took every school day as a member of the METCO program in Arlington all the way from kindergarten through high school, where she graduated in 1989. Now, Brandy takes the same route her mother rode to school every day to her first grade seat at the Hardy. The route hasn't changed — nor the reaction between mother and daughter.

"The toughest part was getting up at when it was dark and getting home when it was dark, especially in the winter," Mills said.

And what does she hear from her daughter, Brandy?

"That's all that I hear," she said, laughing. "Why do I have to get up early and go in the dark?"

No Doubts or Regrets

There's a reason, of course, for the early mornings and late evenings.

METCO brings students from the neighborhoods of Boston to suburban schools throughout the region to give mostly minority children cultural exposure and a chance at a better education.

An acronym for Metropolitan Council for Educational Opportunity, METCO was founded in 1966 when seven suburban communities including Arlington responded to a call by black parents and activists to implement The Racial Imbalance Act that was signed in 1965.

This year, the program celebrates its 35th year in the community. It has become a staple of Arlington education that has graduated hundreds of students and currently hosts 102 students at five elementary schools, Ottoson Middle School and Arlington High School, said Arlington METCO Director Steven Perreira.

Thirty-five years is a long time. A long time is a good thing.

"What it's done is put a face to METCO that it's pretty much an institution," Perreira said.

This year's Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Celebration has become a METCO celebration of sorts. METCO director Jean McGuire will be the keynote speaker at this Monday's MLK celebration at the Arlington First Baptist Church. Tomorrow night, a community forum will join METCO alumni with current students and teachers at the Hardy School.

■ SEE METCO, PAGE 13

FROZEN FRIENDS



Katherine Wall, 15, and Emily Nugent, 7, skate at the Veterans Memorial Rink Sunday, as part of the "Meet the Players" event, where the Arlington High School boys' and girls' hockey teams meet youngsters and sign autographs.

STAFF PHOTO BY ANN RINGWOOD

Armed robber hits stations

BY LIS G. MASTERSON
STAFF WRITER

Arlington and Lexington police are investigating three armed robberies that happened within hours of each other in the two communities Monday evening.

The first incident took place around 5:30 p.m. An attendant at the Texaco Gas Station on Massachusetts Avenue in East Arlington finished pumping gas and was returning to the office when he was confronted by a male, around 6 feet tall, wearing a brown jacket with a white T-shirt covering his face.

The suspect said, "vo, yo, yo," and lifted his shirt, showing the victim the butt of a handgun tucked into the suspect's waistband. Knowing that the man

wanted money, the attendant handed him around \$120.

With money in hand, the suspect ran down Elmhurst Road, where he was met by another male with a white T-shirt covering his face and they both ran toward the Donald R. Marquis Minute-man Trail.

The other incident occurred near the Park Avenue Gulf Station in Arlington. The victim, who worked at the station, said he was walking near the business on Park Avenue at Lowell Street around 7 p.m. when he was approached by a white man wearing a white hooded sweatshirt and a white cloth mask. The man, described as 5 feet, 10 inches, 110 pounds, in his late-teens to early-20s, pulled out a long black handgun and pointed it at the victim's stomach.

■ SEE ROBBERIES, PAGE 14

Cyclists exploring trail maintenance

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

Mile 4 of the Donald R. Marquis Minuteman Trail — brought to you by Brigham's?

It's a possibility.

Members of the Arlington Bicycle Club, who also race with the Arlington Heights Quad Cycle racing team, are drumming up ideas to keep the trail open year round, while minimizing the public expense.

Tom Scotto, manager of the Quad Cycle Racing Team and one of the founders of the club, is hoping that a combination of bicycle club membership fees and perhaps some type of private sponsorship could help to repair and perhaps maintain some portions of the bike path.

"Arlington is already a very bike-friendly place and we'd just like to see that expanded more," Scotto said. "People who are more casual cyclists tend to not ride on

the streets in the winter because they are intimidated by motor vehicles."

Through individual and family membership plans, which will cost \$35 and \$50, the group is exploring whether to start a maintenance fund. Club volunteers also would like start a program, much like trail maintenance, where they will clear underbrush one foot back of the path on either side and overhanging branches below 6 feet.

"We certainly are willing to talk to town officials about this and work out something that's agreeable to everybody," Scotto said.

A recent rash of indecent assaults to female pedestrians walking along the path in East Arlington has raised exposure about additional lighting and year-round maintenance of the 3.6-mile trail that comprise the Arlington portion of the 10-mile trail.

■ SEE TRAIL, PAGE 13

TM discusses Symmes

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

As *The Advocate* went to press last night, the second night of debate over the purchase of the Symmes property continued after three hours of information and deliberation Monday night failed to produce a vote.

Nine Town Meeting members were prepared to speak when the meeting adjourned at 11:02 p.m. on Monday, a continuation of the special Town Meeting from Oct. 1 of last year. At that time, the meeting was postponed while Arlington officials and the Lahey/HealthSouth partnership, the group that owns the 18 acres, continued to work toward a purchase and sale agreement.

Debate was expected to end and come to a vote last night. Of the 11 Town Meeting members who spoke, six expressed general favor for the plan and five appeared to be voting against it. But two of the six supporters were Redevelopment Board members and another was a Symmes Advisory Committee member.

In order for the town to take control of the Symmes land, Town Meeting members must first approve an Urban Renewal Plan by a majority vote that places the Symmes property under the control of the Redevelopment Board.

Second, they will vote to approve the town Treasurer's Office borrow up to \$14 million in short-term loans and bonds to pay for the purchase, maintenance and planning of the land and buildings, including the former hospital, that accompany it.

Town Counsel John Maher said one vote cannot be approved without the other. The Urban Renewal Plan, established under state law mostly to improve blighted city areas, gives the town authority to borrow money to pay for operating expenses for the hospital. Officials have set aside \$6 million toward that purpose for four years based on estimates obtained from Lahey.

Director of Planning and Community Development Alan McClellan has said that the actual amount spent could be less.

■ SEE SYMMES, PAGE 13

John Bullock remembered for his support of 'the little guy'

Former state senator, selectman dies at 72

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

John W. Bullock was a man whose force of will and spirit belied the physical struggles he lived with for much of his life, said friends, family, and former colleagues this week.

Bullock, a former selectman and state senator from Arlington, died Sunday after a lengthy illness. He was 72.

Born and raised in Arlington, Bullock lived here for 70 years, briefly moving to Somerville after he was married and briefly living in Billerica before he died.

"John was always a forceful dynamic figure," said Joseph Daly, who served with Bullock in the state Legislature as Arlington's representative in 1973. "Once he took a position, he didn't waver much. He served the town well many times with his strong personality."

As a brakeman with the Boston and Maine Railroad, Bullock suffered an accident that amputated his left leg in 1953 and that significantly damaged his right knee, said Ellen Bullock, one of Bullock's four daughters and a photographer for Community Newspaper Company.

Her father's attitude, Bullock recalled, was "don't tell me how I can't do something, tell me how I can. He never complained about (the leg) either. He was really exceptional in that regard."

Born on March 13, 1929, Bullock was one of 12 siblings, who grew up on Robbins Road. After graduating

high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army in March 1947 and was honorably discharged Aug. 20, 1948.

After the accident forced him from his job with the railroad, Bullock became a businessman. He co-owned the former Wellington Nursing Home in Arlington, along with a small business as a general contractor building homes.

He married Jacqueline T. (LaRue) on June 20, 1953 at St. Agnes Church. The couple soon started a family and had four daughters: Barbara Lionetta, 47, Nancy Seeley, 43, Caroline Caliendo, 40, and Ellen Bullock, 33.

In 1966, he entered into public service, winning election as a selectman and serving for three terms. Harry McCabe, currently a Town Meeting member, served with Bullock on the board for several years.

"As busy as he was, he always had time for us junior members of the committee seeking advice and direction. John's was a constant presence," McCabe wrote in a short letter after a request for comment.

Within Arlington, Bullock came face to face with one of the many development proposals put forth by the Mugar family for the parcel of land in East Arlington in the 1960s. He helped to orchestrate a special designation of zoning known as "Planned Unit Development" that still governs the property's use today.

Bullock also was a selectman during the significant and often fractious debate over Red Line expansion

■ SEE BULLOCK, PAGE 13



Former state Sen. and Selectman John W. Bullock died this week.

FILE PHOTO

INSIDE

Pedestrian struck

A 41-year-old Massachusetts Avenue woman was listed in fair condition at Beth Israel Hospital Wednesday after she was struck by a Cambridge Police motorcycle Saturday morning.

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FOR THE RECORD

POLICE LOG

The following are excerpts from the Arlington Police Department log. The log is available to the public.

Monday, Jan. 7

• At 6:59 p.m., a Park Avenue business reported that a customer had scratched lottery tickets before purchasing them.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

• At 10:21 a.m., a woman came to the Community Safety Building to report that she found a white pill in her car. She was concerned that it might be ecstasy. Police confiscated the pill.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

• At 2:21 p.m., a Highland Avenue resident told police that someone had fraudulently used a credit card.

• At 8:37 p.m., police received a call from Mary Street concerning a solicitor, who claimed that he was from a cable company. The man left before police arrived.

• At 10:17 p.m., a Windsor Street resident reported that someone broke into an apartment, taking two gold rings, two gold chains, and \$50 worth of loose change. The burglar entered the residence by cutting a first-floor window screen.

Thursday, Jan. 10

• At 3:51 p.m., police told an Arizona Terrace resident to turn down a loud television.

• At 4:44 p.m., a Massachusetts Avenue resident told police that someone ransacked a bedroom and stole more than \$200 and bank checks. There was no forced entry. Police said the suspect is a 5

feet, 5 inch Asian male, between 45-50 years old, with dark hair and a mustache.

• At 9:51 p.m., a Fordham Street resident reported that someone tried to break into a home by prying open a window. There was no entry gained.

Friday, Jan. 11

• At 8:02 a.m., police received a call from a Mt. Vernon Street resident, who said someone used her personal information to obtain a credit card and open a checking account in Missouri.

• At 2:41 p.m., a Massachusetts Avenue business reported that someone had vandalized a rooftop air conditioning unit.

• At 5:02 p.m., a Hutchinson Road resident told police that a car had driven over a front lawn.

• At 6:45 p.m., police received a call from Paul Revere Road concerning someone entering three unlocked cars. The victims reported CDs and loose change were taken from the vehicles.

Saturday, Jan. 12

• At 2:38 a.m., police responded to a call regarding a possible break-in on Wellesley Road. The resident reported that someone had rang the door bell eight times before breaking a basement window and banging against an inner door. There was no access gained.

• At 3:49 a.m., the Police Department received a call relative to a person walking with a camera in the Hillsdale Road area. Police were unable to locate the man.

• At 5:09 p.m., a caller reported

Arrests

Monday, Jan. 7

• At 8:30 a.m., police arrested Christopher J. Allen, 31, 25 Peirce St., and charged him with assault and battery and assault and battery with a dangerous weapon. Officer Gina Bassett made the arrest.

• At 4:42 p.m., police arrested a man, later identified as Donald H. Tuggle, 28, address unknown, and charged him with two counts of malicious destruction of property more than \$250, assault by means of a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest, and being a disorderly person. They also found a number of warrants for Tuggle from California and Illinois, including ones for larceny, defrauding an inn keeper, trespassing, a bond default, obstructing justice, resisting a police officer, and drug charges. Officer Edward Savill made the arrest.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

• At 11:50 a.m., police arrested

ed Thomas J. Rios, 37, 11 Acorn St., Malden, and charged him with shoplifting and on a warrant for shoplifting. While on detail, Sgt. Robert Bongiorno radioed that a man fled West Coast Video after trying to steal DVDs. Officer Gina Bassett responded and spotted the suspect on Teel Street. She parked her cruiser on Lee Terrace and told dispatch that the man was running through backyards. Bassett ran on Massachusetts Avenue to Amsden Street, hoping to catch the suspect. Police were able to find the man hiding in a backyard and Bassett arrested him.

Friday, Jan. 11

• At 9:04 a.m., police arrested Kevin L. Palmer, 30, 5 Willow Court, and charged him with assault and battery with a dangerous weapon (a coffee pot). Officer Gregory Flavin made the arrest.

• At 12:35 p.m., a Mott Street resident reported that someone had smashed a motor vehicle's window and stole a number of tools, including a drill, nail gun, and saw.

• At 1:41 p.m., police received a call from Broadway concerning someone who broke a car's window and fled with a flight computer, pilot helmet set, and gifts.

that a man was ducking behind mail boxes on Court Street. Police responded, but could not find the man.

Sunday, Jan. 13

• At 3:25 a.m., a Burch Street resident told police that someone had punched a screen door and ripped off a car's rear-view mirror. Police are investigating the matter.

Human Rights dialogue focuses on that darn mouse

The Arlington Human Rights Commission will present a community dialogue on "The Mickey Mouse Monopoly: How Disney and the Media Culture Promote Stereotypes" on Thursday, Jan. 31.

Disney movies, together with the wide range of toys and other products linked to them, usually receive praise as wholesome family entertainment. The newly-released educational video, "Mickey Mouse Monopoly: Disney, Childhood, and Corporate Culture," takes a close and critical look at the world these films



create. Using the video as a starting point, Professor Diane Levin will look at how the Disney and the media culture contribute to stereotyped thinking.

Levin, Ph.D., is a professor of education at Wheelock College. Professor Levin is an internationally known expert on how vio-

lence in media culture and the wider society affects children, families, and schools and how to counteract the problems that violence in society creates. She is the author of six books, including "Remote Control Childhood: Combating the Hazards of Media Culture."

The event will take place at Robbins Memorial Library Community Room, 700 Massachusetts Ave. Refreshments will be served at 7 p.m. and the video and dialogue will begin at 7:30 p.m. The public is invited to this free event, which is sponsored by

the Arlington Human Rights Commission and co-sponsored by the Arlington Family Connection and the Arlington Safe Schools Task Force.

"The Mickey Mouse Monopoly" is the 10th in the Arlington Human Rights Commission's series of Arlington Dialogues.

The commission was established by Town Meeting in 1993 to serve as a mechanism for addressing issues of unlawful discrimination.

Questions about the event may be directed to Human Rights Commission at 781-316-3250.

FIRE LOG

The Arlington Fire Department responded to 88 calls from Jan. 7-13, including 52 with Rescue, 12 fire alarms, and 14 investigations. References to paramedics denote two-medical teams from Armstrong Ambulance Service, a private Arlington-based ambulance company. The following are excerpts from the Fire Department log; the information is available to the public.

Monday, Jan. 7

• At 9:58 a.m., a 45-year-old woman was injured in a motor vehicle accident at Broadway and Rawson Road. The woman complained of head pain. Firefighters placed a collar around her neck and put her on a backboard. They also checked her vital signs. Rescue transported the victim to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

Tuesday, Jan. 8

• At 9:20 p.m., a 68-year-old Drake Road man complained of having difficulty breathing. Firefighters checked the man's vital signs and administered oxygen. Rescue transported him to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

Wednesday, Jan. 9

• At 4:15 a.m., the Fire Department received a call concerning an 89-year-old Park Avenue woman who was having difficulty breathing. Firefighters checked the woman's vital signs and administered oxygen. Rescue with paramedics transported her to Mt. Auburn Hospital.

• At 4:34 p.m., an 81-year-old man was involved in a motor vehicle accident on Mystic Street. The steering wheel was bent and wind was spidered. He complained of chest pain and suffered a bloody nose. Firefighters held traction to the victim's neck, placed a collar around his neck, and put him on a backboard. They also bandaged his hand, checked his vital signs, and administered oxygen. Rescue with paramedics transported the man to Lahey Clinic.

Saturday, Jan. 12

• At 6:33 a.m., firefighters responded to a call on Sorensen Court regarding an 84-year-old woman, who fractured her right ankle. Firefighters splinted her leg and transported the woman to Lahey Clinic.

Sunday, Jan. 13

• At 1:40 p.m., a 10-year-old boy fell and possibly broke his right arm while playing basketball on Medford Street. Firefighters checked the youngster's vital signs and splinted his right arm. Rescue transported the boy to Winchester Hospital.

• At 10 p.m., the Fire Department received a call concerning a blind person trapped on the 14th floor in an elevator at Winslow Towers. Firefighters rescued the person by shutting off the power to the elevator and forcing open the door. They also notified the elevator company.

MEETINGS

Thursday, Jan. 17

• Conservation Commission meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, second-floor conference room.

• Vision 2020 Standing Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first floor. Note: the meeting will be postponed if special Town Meeting continues tonight.

• Council on Aging meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Senior Center, first floor.

Tuesday, Jan. 22

• School Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the School Committee Room, Arlington High School, sixth floor.

• Spy Pond Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first floor.

Wednesday, Jan. 23

• Arlington Reservoir Committee meets at 7:30 p.m. in the Town Hall Annex, first floor.

Thursday, Jan. 24

• Arlington Housing Authority meets at 6:30 p.m. in the John F. Cusack Board Room, Winslow Towers, 4 Winslow St.

• Arlington Historic Districts Commission meets at 8 p.m. in the Whittemore-Robbins House.



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Barmby, Plekavitch honored

Arlington residents Paula Barmby and Squizzle Plekavitch were recently honored by Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic for contributing more than 100 volunteer hours to the organization in 2001.

RFB&D (www.rfb.org) is the largest national nonprofit organization providing taped textbooks to people of all ages who cannot read standard print effectively due to visual impairment, severe dyslexia or other physical disabilities. More than 5,700 dedicated volunteers from across the country are the cornerstone of RFB&D and have recorded the 83,000 textbooks that comprise RFB&D's CV Starr Master Library.

According to Christina Raimo, executive director of

RFB&D's Boston unit, RFB&D serves close to 5,200 students with visual impairments, serious learning disabilities or other physical disabilities that prevent the use of standard print. RFB&D offers individual and institutional memberships for students with print disabilities. In the Greater Boston area, RFB&D has partnered with more than 100 schools as part of an educational outreach program designed to bring taped textbooks and corresponding teacher training directly into the classroom.

The Boston unit of RFB&D is located at 58 Charles St., Cambridge. For more information, contact Recording for the Blind & Dyslexic at 617-577-1111.

Redistricting makes for busy election season

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

A memo to Town Meeting members: many of you have to run again.

Because of the recent redistricting effort brought about by the federal census, Town Meeting members in most precincts within the community must run for re-election this spring.

Representatives in Precincts 1, 2, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, 17, 18 and 20 will all have to run for re-election.

Federal census data revealed a 5 percent population decline in Arlington, which left two precincts (Precincts 10 and 17) too large to be legal. Approximately 500 people will shift precincts as a result.

Only one Town Meeting member has to shift precincts: Pasquale

Oppedisano from Precinct 11 into Precinct 13. He lives on Stowcroft Road.

"Does that make me unique or what?" Oppedisano said. "I'm really surprised I'm the only one, with all the precinct changes."

Although he'll run again if he has to, the 74-year-old Oppedisano said he'd like someone younger to take his slot.

"I think it's something that the younger people should get into," he said.

Another Town Meeting member, Sarah Parker of Precinct 14 said she "already signed off my form to run."

When asked if she minded running two years in a row, the Walnut Street resident said, "It's sort of a nuisance, but there wasn't any competition so I didn't have to do a lot of work for it."

Town Clerk Corinne Rainville

said, in general, people are aware that they need to run again.

"Actually, the election forms have been pouring in," Rainville said.

Of the 148 Town Meeting members who need to run this year, 65 have turned in their forms. Incumbent Town Meeting members have until Feb. 11 to declare if they are candidates for re-election.

If the thought of being a Town Meeting member intrigues you, there are two vacancies in Precinct 1, three vacancies in Precinct 4, one vacancy in Precinct 5, one vacancy in Precinct 17 and one in Precinct 18.

The deadline to take out blank

nomination papers for all elected offices is Feb. 14.

Rainville said new candidates have taken out papers in Precincts 5, 16 and 21. The person in Precinct 21 has already returned papers so the election will be contested.

In all, a full Town Meeting includes 252 members, 12 representatives multiplied by 21 precincts. There are currently 244 members.

There may be an additional vacancy. Robert Hayden, a representative of Precinct 13 who lives on Old Middlesex Path, said, "I don't know if I'm running again or not. I've not been too active."

THE STORK REPORT

• A son, Michael Jefferson Avery, was born 9:58 a.m., Oct. 18, 2001, at Mt. Auburn Hospital, to Richard and Jennifer (Malone) Avery, of Arlington.

Grandmother is Carol Malone of Dennisport.

Michael weighed 8 pounds, 11 ounces, and was 21 inches.

He joins brother Matthew.

Summer Camps

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Motorcycle hits pedestrian during funeral procession

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

A 41-year-old Massachusetts Avenue woman was listed in fair condition at Beth Israel Hospital Wednesday after she was struck by a Cambridge Police motorcycle Saturday morning.

The victim, Linda Manganaro, was crossing in the area of 990 Massachusetts Ave., when a car in an approximately 50-vehicle funeral procession, which was headed to a burial in Cambridge, stopped to let a pedestrian cross. At that same time, a Cambridge officer, who was riding along the right side of the stopped vehicle did not

stop or see the pedestrian crossing and struck her, according to police.

Since the accident is an ongoing investigation, police are refusing to release the Cambridge officer's name.

At the scene, firefighters found Manganaro and the officer on Massachusetts Avenue. The victim suffered a cut on the right side of her head. A check of the woman showed that she may have suffered a head injury. Firefighters placed a collar around the woman's neck and placed her on a backboard, according to Fire Capt. Bob Casey.

They also checked Manganaro's oxygen saturation and

administered oxygen. She was taken to Beth Israel Hospital.

Firefighters also found the officer had face abrasions. When they arrived, a witness was holding traction. They placed a collar around the officer's neck and put him on a backboard. Paramedics transported the officer to Brigham and Women's Hospital, where he was held for observation.

Arlington Police Services Director Fred Ryan said Monday that police notified the State Police's accident reconstruction team immediately after hearing of the accident. Arlington, Cambridge, and State police are investigating the incident.

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Story times

Story times for preschool children will resume in January at the Fox Branch Library.

Stories for 2 1/2 to 3 year olds will be held on Tuesdays at 10 a.m. from Jan. 15 through Feb. 12 and for 4 to 5 year olds at 10:30 a.m. on the same days. The sessions of stories and finger plays will be followed by a simple craft. Please sign your child up for these programs by calling the Fox Branch Library at 781-316-3198.

Lap-Sit stories for babies and toddlers up to age 2 1/2 will take place on Thursdays, Jan. 17 through Feb. 14 at 10 a.m. A brief story time is followed by a simple art activity, age appropriate toys and a chance to socialize. Children must be accompanied by an adult who will sit on the floor and participate in the songs and singing games. No sign up is required for this program.

Fox Branch Library is located at 175 Massachusetts Ave., on the corner of Massachusetts Avenue and Cleveland Street. Hours are Tuesday, Thursday and Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Wednesday 1 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Art exhibit

The Arlington Center for the Arts will present the exhibit Reflections at Midlife, on display

WHAT'S HAPPENING

in the Gibbs Gallery from Jan. 22 to March 2.

The arts center invites residents to review this exhibit, which examines the interior world of four American women set against the backdrop of today's culture.

Featuring photography, mixed media, and paintings by Elizabeth Buckley, Karen Davis, Andrea Geyer, and Nancy Hart, the show explores the changes and challenges facing the artists in midlife as they examine the nature of relationships and their positions in the world. These award-winning women artists have shown their work extensively in the Boston area and this is the first show they have exhibited together.

The opening reception will be on Thursday, Jan. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Discussion

The Lesley Ellis School, in association with Families First, Cambridge, is sponsoring a discussion on positive approaches to discipline, Thursday, Jan. 24, 7:30 p.m., in the Lesley Ellis Library, 41 Foster St.

Entitled, "Things Kids Do That Drive Us Nuts: Positive Approaches to Discipline," the discussion will explore why children engage in frustrating behaviors and will offer positive discipline strategies

that parent can use in responding to teasing, hitting, whining, and other troublesome behavior.

Sponsored by the Lesley Ellis Parent Education Committee, this event is free and open to all interested parents. For more information, contact Marliisa Brigggett at 781-641-3754.

Performance

The Arlington Heights Nursery School presents "SteveSongs!" a kids concert featuring acclaimed performing artist — Steve!, on Saturday, Jan. 26 at 10:30 a.m. at the Calvary Methodist Church, Mass. Ave., Arlington.

Tickets are \$6, but no more than \$18 per family; available at the door. Refreshments will be sold.

Zydeco dance

River City Slim and the Zydeco Hogs will perform dance music from Southwest Louisiana from 8 to 11 p.m. on Saturday, Jan. 26 at the Park Avenue Congregational Church, 50 Paul Revere Road.

A beginner dance lesson will be held at 7:15 p.m. Dancers from throughout New England are expected to attend. Both couples and singles are welcome.

Admission is \$10. For more information, call 781-648-2992 or e-mail gteshu@yahoo.com.

Police apprehend man following assault, rock-throwing incidents

BY LES G. MASTERTON
STAFF WRITER

Police arrested an out-of-control man Jan. 7, but not before he injured an officer, threw a rock at a passing car on Mystic Street, punched a police cruiser's door, and slapped a woman in the St. Agnes Church.

Police arrested the man, who they later identified as Donald H. Tuggle, 28, address unknown, and charged him with two counts of malicious destruction of property more than \$250, assault by means of a dangerous weapon, resisting arrest, and being a disorderly person. They also found a number of warrants for Tuggle from California and Illinois, including ones for larceny, defrauding an inn keeper, trespassing, a bond default,

obstructing justice, resisting a police officer, and drug charges. The man also had many aliases, including Donald Wier, Angel Tuggle, Don Tubble, and Don Justus Tubble.

At around 4:30 p.m. Monday, Jan. 7, police received a call from a motorist, who reported that a man threw a rock at his car's window, denting the window frame, while the man traveled on Mystic Street. The motorist identified the alleged vandal on Stowcroft Road and Officer Edward Savill drove alongside the suspect. Savill asked to speak to him, but the 6-foot man punched the cruiser's passenger door and continued walking.

Savill asked for backup and the officers confronted Tuggle on College Avenue. The suspect began running and yelling and wound up on Mystic Street, causing traffic to stop.

The man threatened police

and made religious references. When Savill approached the suspect, the man threw a rock at his head, barely missing the officer.

Fearing what the man would do next, the officers charged the suspect and sprayed him with two bursts of mace. During the struggle, Savill suffered a contusion to his right knee and a bump to the right side of his head. The officer refused medical treatment.

Police were ultimately able to place Tuggle in handcuffs and brought him to the station.

In addition, earlier that day, a woman working at St. Agnes Church reported that a man slapped her face, when the woman tried to clean the pew where the man was seated. The man left the church without further incident.

The victim provided police with a description of the man, which matched Tuggle.

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Class of '71 donates to fund

Arlington High School Class of 1971 held its 30th reunion on Nov. 23.

It was organized on the spur of the moment and still more than 80 people were in attendance.

Extra proceeds from the reunion were donated to the Linda Anderson Yerardi Scholarship Fund. She was a graduate of the class of 1971. A check exceeding \$500 was sent in her memory.

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by Kim McAdams, Director of Marketing

WHOM ARE YOU CALLING "OLD"?

According to a recent survey by Roper Starch Worldwide, nearly one person in three between the ages of 19 and 29 considers age 65 to be the beginning of old age. Not surprisingly, only 7% of those aged 60 and older think old age begins before age 65. For people under age 30, "old" is a term that is applicable about ten years sooner than for those close to it, at an average age of 67 versus nearly 77 years for those aged 60-plus. All this may change quite a bit, however, as baby boomers enter later middle age. While the bar has yet to be raised on old age nationwide, it is likely to move up as boomers enter their sixties.

"Old age" is largely perception, and while you cannot control the perception of others, you can control how you feel about yourself. At LONGMEADOW PLACE, 42 Mall Road, Burlington, we know how unkind others can be to the inevitable processes that affect us as we age, so we make a special point of focusing on the person — and his or her strengths to foster the well-being that leads to continued health. Call us at 781-270-9008 for more information.

P.S. Today, the average age American adults consider to be "old" is 72 years, which is unchanged from 1982.

Town Democrats holding caucus

A Feb. 2 date set for the Democratic Caucus in Arlington.

The action will take place in the auditorium of Arlington High School, 869 Massachusetts Ave., at 10 a.m. The building is handicapped accessible.

At the Feb. 2 caucus, Arlington will elect 36 delegates and 10 alternates to participate in the 2002 Massachusetts Democratic Convention. Delegates are divided equally between men and women. The Democratic Convention will be held on Friday, May 31, and Saturday, June 1, at the Worcester Centrum in Worcester.

The caucus is open to all registered Arlington Democrats. Candidates are advised to bring a copy of their party enrollment if they register after Jan. 1, as they have until Feb. 1 to register. Delegates must be present at the caucus to be nominated and give their consent of same in writing.

The Arlington Democratic Town Committee welcomes and invites all registered Democrats to participate. We strongly believe in equality and do not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, age, color, creed, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, ethnic identity, philosophical persuasion, economic status or disability in the conduct of Democratic party business. If interested in being involved you must arrive at the caucus within 15 minutes of the stated time (10 a.m.) to participate.

We invite you to come and participate on Feb. 2. If you need more information, please contact Janice Baker, chairman, at 781-643-4345.

Submitted by the Arlington Democratic Town Committee

Workers needed for election

Residents interested in serving as election workers at the polls during 2002 should contact either Sandy or Jean in the office of the Board of Selectmen at 781-316-3020.

Rainville seeks another term as town clerk

By DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

Town Clerk Corinne Rainville said she loves her job, but she's not the type to prone on about her philosophy as a public official or the essential but quiet role that a Clerk's office plays in daily governance.

Rainville, Arlington's town clerk since 1994 and running for election for a third time, sat in her second-floor Town Hall office recently to discuss her run for office.

Since taking over for longtime Town Clerk Ann Powers in 1994, Rainville has quietly gone about her business in a quiet office where, as she puts it, "most of what we do is happy stuff. Marriage licenses, dog licenses, this isn't like the Treasurer's or the Assessor's office, where a lot of time the people who are coming in have something negative," Rainville said. "We were in the Assessor's office (while the Clerk's office got a renovation) during the (property) revaluation and we heard the complaints."

Along with running the town's elections and recording the vote of Town Meeting, the Clerk's office recorded 804 docu-

ments celebrating the more joyous parts of people's lives in the form of 542 births and 262 marriages. Those certificates are a small but consistent revenue stream, bringing in \$27,201 last year.

Of course, after birth and 80 or so years comes death. The office also handled 427 of those.

Along with dog licenses, conservation licenses and other matters, usually the only contact the everyday citizen has with town government is through the clerk's office. Rainville said it makes her second floor corner of Town Hall a sort of repository for information and people seeking answers to their questions. Often times, Rainville said, people bypass the Treasurer's and Assessor's offices on the first floor and come straight upstairs.

Sometimes, the questions are downright silly.

"You will not believe the calls we get. Somebody recently called for a recipe for broccoli. We had to ask around, but we found one," Rainville said.

She joined the Clerk's office in 1981 part-time after working as a Head Start teacher for a few years after college. She became the assistant town clerk in 1988,

and was appointed when Powers left the Clerk's job in 1994. She first ran for re-election in 1996, so this is her third time running.

Rainville moved to Arlington from Cambridge when she was 3 and attended the public schools, graduating from the now-defunct Boston State College, majoring in Liberal Arts.

As an elected official who also has to run for election herself, many of the duties of this year's Town Election fall to Assistant Town Clerk Stephanie Lucarelli so there is no potential conflict of interest (Lucarelli, by the way, provided the broccoli recipe). But, as many have already proclaimed, 2002 looks to be "a quiet year."

Asked if the Clerk's Office is disappointed that no one appears to be contesting any elected offices, Rainville replied, "Not really. You wonder if Sept. 11 might have had an effect on people. I think people just might have not wanted to get into (a political election) or people are content with the way things are."

In her office, Rainville hopes to upgrade technology if she is re-elected. By using an AccuVote computerized system to tally vote totals and eliminating

punch ballots in 1996, Arlington is a chad-free environment. But she wants to buy more powerful computers for election tallying and other duties.

On the personal end, Rainville just celebrated a birthday Tuesday. She enjoys hiking in Vermont with her oldest daughter Kerri, 32, who works for a construction company obtaining subcontractors. Her other daughter, Kristen, 29, was working as a restaurant manager until December. She's now looking for another job and lives in Newton.

Asked if she's shouting a call for grandchildren, Rainville said she's "letting them be. They can do what they want."

Antiques dot Rainville's office and when pressed, she said it is a hobby of hers. In one corner rests an old Arlington ballot box, an antique in its own right.

"There's a bunch of those in the basement," she said. "I'd love to have a couple of them."

Most of all, Rainville plugs away, her job "never dull." There's something new every day she goes to the office and sees no reason to retire, she said.

"I'll probably be here over 30 years like (Arlington Treasurer John) Bilefer," she added.

Town Republicans holding meeting

For the purpose of election and other business matter, the Arlington Republican Town Committee will hold its monthly meeting on Tuesday, Jan. 22 at the Arlington Community Safety Building, 112 Mystic St. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30 p.m.

Note: The February meeting scheduled for Tuesday, Feb. 5 will have as its guest speaker, Republican State Committee Chairman, Terry Murphy Healey. That meeting will also be held at the Arlington Community Safety Building and will start at 7:30 p.m.

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We are now accepting applications for grades preschool-grade four. To learn more, please call or email our admissions office or join us for our OPEN HOUSE on January 22 8:30-10:30 a.m. or at our OPEN HOUSE for Families with Children of Color on January 27 from 3:00-4:30.

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Coalition for Alewife forum scheduled

The Coalition for Alewife will hold a regional forum tonight, Thursday, Jan. 17, from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Temple Beth El, 2 Concord Ave., Belmont, at the corner of Blanchard Road.

Members of grassroots groups in Arlington, Belmont, and Cambridge will share their concerns about flooding, traffic and land use problems in the Alewife area and decide on solutions on which

they can act together. The public is welcome. The temple has parking in the back and is accessible by MBTA bus. For more information, contact Aram Hollman at 617-578-3181 or ahollman@aol.com.

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LEARNING

SCHOOL NOTES

MCAS forum

The Arlington Parent Education Forums for 2001-2002 have added a program, "MCAS Perspectives and Practices, Arlington High School and Otton Middle School, 2001-2002."

Moderated by Joanne Gurry, assistant superintendent of schools, the forum is set for tonight, Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 to 8:30 p.m., at the Media Center, Arlington High School.

This forum will provide an opportunity to learn about the integration of the "frameworks," the state-required curriculum, into Arlington's comprehensive program and the provision of support for MCAS testing.

The following forum is "How Disney and Media Culture promote Stereotype," set for Thursday, Jan. 31, 7:30 p.m., Robbins Library Community Room.

To see all forums, go to <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/forums.htm>.

Stratton Math Night

Stratton PTO enrichment committee is planning a Math Night for the Stratton community, set for tonight, Thursday, Jan. 17, from 6:30 to 8:30, in the Stratton cafeteria.

It is an evening of fun activities that tie into the math curriculum that parents can do with their children.

PTO members with special knowledge of the state-required curriculum, known as the "frameworks," will be available to explain and demonstrate the various math activities for that evening.

There will be a resource table. Organizers will have or follow up with a take-home packet of resources and activities families can use to reinforce the math curriculum.

The evening sponsored in part by the Parent Involvement project of the Arlington Public Schools.

If you want to volunteer, contact Bernadette Scutti (781-648-4322).

Stratton games night

The Stratton PTO Socials Committee is the host for a games night for Stratton families at the Otton Middle School on Friday, Jan. 25, from 6:45 to 8:15.

The event will take place in the "old gymnasium" and will include both cooperative and independent games.

Admission is free. Sneakers are required.

Information: Pam Edelman at 781-643-9685 or Nina Martorana at 781-648-7633.

Upcoming at Stratton:

- Children in grades two and three to meet Lucinda Landon, author of the Meg Mackintosh books, Jan. 23, as part of the library's Mystery Month.

- Kindergarten registration, Monday, Feb. 11, 5:30 p.m.; presentation/information, 7 p.m.; Tuesday, Feb. 12, 9:15 to 10:30 a.m., registration.

Select chamber CD

The Select Elementary Chamber Orchestra has been chosen to perform at the annual Massachusetts Music Educator's All-State Conference in Danvers in March.

Music teachers throughout the state entered 68 tapes and CDs. The CD from Arlington's orchestra was chosen as representing an outstanding elementary school orchestra, thus awarding us the opportunity to perform at the conference, Director Debra Thoresen said.

Brackett and Dallin newsletters reported the following participants:

Brackett: Zoe Greenberg, Rachel Gresser, Heather Kobayashi, Ali McKeigue, John Nichols, Natasha Rosenberg, Alice Xiang, Jeffrey Lim, Jordon Moses-Gilson, Charlie Ekhaus and Simon Ginot.

Dallin: Alex Bird, Renee Delgado, Lydia Ding, Eliza Forman, Katia George, Veronica Hilton, Emily Nauman, Joseph Ricci, Phoebe Rosen and Pierre Tong.

Names of others participants will be reported as they are made known. E-mail the names of other school students to bsprague1@rcn.com.

Greek myth

Chariot of the Sun is scheduled to perform for Brackett fourth graders on Tuesday, Jan. 22.

Friends and family of the Brackett community are welcome to attend the performance at 9 a.m. in the dining room.

Students will participate in an interactive theatrical performance. The program brings to life the heroes, monsters, gods and goddesses of Greek mythology. Performed in the round, the show uses poetry, masks, mime and audience participation, to capture the spirit of the ancient world and point out some of its important influences on Western civilization.

This program is sponsored and organized by the cultural enrichment committee and supported in part by a grant from the Arlington Arts Council.

Upcoming at Brackett:

- School Council meeting, Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., school library.
- Academic enrichment committee meeting, Thursday, Jan. 17, at 7:30 p.m., science room.
- Greenhouse subcommittee meeting, Friday, Jan. 18, at 8:30 a.m., science room. Information: Andrea Gwosdow, 646-4251 or andrea@gwosdow.com.
- The PTO needs a committee to organize the June Fair. Typically it takes two to three people. Info is available from previous

years and many who have helped in the past. Interested? Contact Elena Bartholomew at 781-643-3638.

Upcoming at Dallin

- PTO meeting, Thursday, Jan. 17, 7 p.m., in the library. Principal Bob Lynch will discuss the MCAS test results.

- All applications for Kidz grants are due Friday, Jan. 18. This is a wonderful opportunity for the children to be able to learn how to plan a project that will benefit her/him and others. If you still need a form, please see Mrs. J. in Room 15.

Otton students needed

Links Program looking for students who would like paid jobs shoveling snow and various odd jobs. Applications in the main office; guidance counselor Eric Saum can answer questions.

Upcoming at Ottonson:

- This year's musical will be "Once Upon a Mattress," a version of "Princess and the Pea." Auditions week of Jan. 21.

Volunteers sought

The Arlington Child Assault Prevention Program (CAPP) seeks new volunteers to deliver the program to grades 1 and 3 in the Arlington Public Schools.

CAPP is a primary-prevention program that aims to empower children to keep safe by understanding their rights to be safe, strong and free. The program encourages children to stand up for themselves and to go to trusted adults in their life when they need help.

Arlington has had great success over the past 10 years in delivering the program to elementary schools. To continue the work, CAPP is seeking volunteers willing to work in classrooms a minimum of five hours a year.

The initial training will take place Tuesday, Jan. 29, from 6:30 to 10 p.m., and Tuesday, Feb. 5, from 7 to 10 p.m. It is necessary to attend both evenings.

Further information: Carlene Newell (781-316-3571) or Cindy



Marie Raduazzo's Arlington High School Theatre of the Holocaust class recently visited The New England Holocaust Memorial located near Faneuil Hall in Boston.

Bouvier (781-316-3570).

Upcoming at Brackett:

- The PTO is seeking a committee to organize the June Fair. If interested, contact Elena Bartholomew (781-646-4678) or Lynn Wilson (781-643-3638).

Hardy etiquette

Midwinter is upon us and many animals are hibernating, but the Hardy PTO is wide awake, working with great ideas and programs.

Presenters from Yellow Brick Road are due to meet with students Wednesday, Jan. 23, to work on proper dining etiquette as part of this program. The PTO looks forward to this fine dining experience for all the students at the school.

Watch for Dress-up Dinner Day, to be held on Thursday, Jan. 24.

Upcoming at Hardy:

- Movie night, the spaghetti dinner night and the annual ice-skating party. The latter is set for March 16, 7 to 9 p.m. Look for information concerning the community-service project, which will include food drives, cleanups and

other school and community-related projects.

- Next PTO meeting, Feb. 6. All encouraged to attend; new ideas always welcome.

Thompson fest

A planning meeting for the 2002 International Festival is set for Tuesday, Jan. 22, at 7 p.m., at the home of Emily Morrison. Parents are invited to attend and children are also welcome.

Those involved will look at activities from the past two festivals and brainstorm for any new ideas for this year's festival, which is scheduled for March 23.

Please contact Emily at 781-648-7539 or Vicki Rose at 781-316-3774 if you can attend and/or if you are interested in being on a committee for the festival.

Upcoming at Thompson:

- The musical talents of a Bolivian group called Sumaj Chasquis will entertain Thompson students Friday, Jan. 25. This performance is brought to the students through the PTO Cultural Enrichment fund.

AHS calendar

- Thursday, Jan. 17, MCAS parent forum, 7 p.m., media center.
- Friday, Jan. 25, second quarter closes
- Tuesday, Jan. 29, Scantrons due at 9 a.m.
- Thursday, Jan. 31, Martin Luther King assembly, period 5.
- Thursday, Feb. 6, early release day, 12:30 p.m., lunch served.

Community ed

Winter classes at Arlington Community Education are scheduled to start Tuesday, Jan. 22. They continue to April 4. If you are an Arlington resident and have not received a brochure, request one at 781-316-3568 or pick up a copy at the Robbins and Fox libraries.

For a complete list of courses, see <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/schools/comm.ed.htm>.

School e-mail lists

You can learn what's going on in the following Arlington public schools by subscribing to an e-mail list for that school. They are those for Arlington High School, Otton (two groups), Bishop, and Thompson PTO.

The latest addition is the list for Stratton PTO.

Each of these e-mail lists is available through Egroups at Yahoo.com. For instructions to subscribe to each list, see <http://www.town.arlington.ma.us/elists.htm>.

School news

You can tell the public news about your public school by e-mailing school-related items to Bob Sprague (bsprague1@rcn.com), communication specialist, Arlington public schools or call 781-641-4490 before 10 a.m. any Monday for publication in The Advocate the following Thursday of that week. School information is posted on the town's Web site.



From left, Satoru Tagawa, orchestra, Todd Minns, chorus, Dan Forman, band, and Chris Carmody, orchestra, were chosen to participate in the Northeast District Festival at Lowell High School last week. The four Arlington High School students were chosen from hundreds of area teens.

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Santino remembered with scholarship

The Ruth-Ann Santino Scholarship Fund has been set up in the memory of Ruth-Ann Santino, an elementary teacher in the Arlington public schools. Ruth-Ann died on May 5, 2001, after a three-year battle with cancer.

Santino was indeed a special person. She always helped those less fortunate, often at the expense of her own needs. As a teacher, she felt that all students could succeed if they were given the attention and support that was appropriate for their needs. Many students benefited from her devotion to her classes, the long hours she spent preparing lessons, and her concern for individual students.

Even in the terrible illness she suffered, she had concern for others. She always made a special effort to reach out to other cancer patients, particularly those with more advanced stages of cancer than her own. She truly wanted to help other patients. She always wanted to read to the many children at the Jimmy Fund Clinic during her frequent visits to Dana Farber Cancer Center.

Santino was more than delighted when "60 Minutes" called to do a story on her, because she felt the public awareness might help other people avoid the suffering that she experienced. She very

bravely traveled to New York to film the show.

Her "60 Minutes" show provided the public with an awareness of the unfair distribution of experimental cancer drugs. Ruth-Ann was unable to get the one experimental drug that doctors said would save her life, and she died on May 5, 2001. Unfortunately, Ruth-Ann never got to view the "60 Minutes" show that ran on May 7, 2001. As a result of her show, however, Congress initiated hearings on the issue of fairer distribution of new experimental cancer drugs and hopefully others will benefit from that.

In her memory, Arlington High School will award an annual scholarship to a deserving senior, as selected by the high school's Scholarship Committee. The support provided by the many contributors will enable Ruth-Ann's spirit to continue and those deserving students will continue to be helped, as she would have wanted.

If you'd like to support Ruth-Ann's worthwhile cause, please send your tax-deductible contribution to Charles McCarthy, Assistant Principal, Arlington High School, 869 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02474. Please make checks payable to the "Ruth-Ann Santino Scholarship Fund."

Students see Barton come to life

BY LINDA YEE
SPECIAL TO THE ADVOCATE

Students from Peirce grades kindergarten through 3 and Stratton grades 2 through 5 were mesmerized as Clara Barton "came to life" Jan. 7.

By watching a one-person dramatization of "Clara," which included viewing a slide show and hearing taped voices and sound effects in the background, and observing numerous and impressive costumes changes, students grew to know Barton from childhood to various stages in adulthood.

She was a teacher to those who couldn't afford an education, a nurse (before nursing was even an accepted profession for women) working in the front lines during the Civil War and eventually became the founder of the American Red Cross. The audience was able to watch how through hard work, determination and self-belief, Barton was able to achieve what she did.

The story of Barton serves as a role model for our children in learning the importance of helping others. Through these experiences, they learn empathy and compassion as they recognize there are those who are less fortunate. They learn to better appreciate what they have.

Most importantly, students learn that they can make a difference. They learn to become humanitarians.

After the performance, children were encouraged to make comments and ask questions. When the children were asked how they might help to make the



PHOTO BY LINDA YEE

Lea Contarino portrays Clara Barton showing off her baseball swing.

world a better place to live, suggestions included "trying to help people in need," "trying not to make war" and "raising money to donate to others in need."

Questions specifically about Barton included: "Why didn't the United States want to be a part of the International Red Cross originally?" and "Why couldn't a woman be the head of a school?"

Clara Barton/Historical Perspectives for Children, Inc. was presented by the Peirce School

and Stratton School PTO/Cultural Enrichment Committees.

These performances were funded in part by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency that funds the Arlington Arts Council, among others.

Minuteman open house

Minuteman Regional High School announces that the faculty and students will host an open house for prospective students and their parents on Wednesday, Jan. 23, 7 to 9 p.m.

The open house is ideal for middle school students interested in learning more about Minuteman's 23 areas of study ranging from biotechnology, pre-engineering and robotics to graphic communications, culinary arts and cosmetology, to automotive technology, carpentry and landscape management. Interested students and parents will have an opportunity to tour the campus and meet with both academic and technology teachers.

Minuteman Regional High School is now accepting applications for 9th and 10th grade admissions in September 2002. For more information, call 781-861-6500 ext. 245 or visit the school's Web site at www.minuteman.org.

SCHOOL LUNCH MENUS

ELEMENTARY

Monday

Holiday — no school.

Tuesday

French toast sticks, syrup, potato puffs, grape juice; chicken nuggets, puffs, green beans; French bread pizza, green beans, peaches.

Wednesday

Bacon cheeseburger, pretzels, celery sticks and dip; hot dog, sun chips, applesauce; pasta with tomato sauce, bread stick, tossed salad.

Thursday

Chicken McSchool sandwich, popcorn, juice; pizza bagel, tossed salad, potato puffs; veggie burger, lettuce, tomato, yogurt, juice bar.

Friday

BBQ chicken, rice, biscuit, corn; calzone, veggie sticks and dip; fresh fruit salad, bagel and cream cheese, teddy grahams.

Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with every meal.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL

Week of Jan. 21

Monday

Holiday — no school.

Tuesday

Macaroni and cheese, tossed salad, 12-grain bread.

Wednesday

Pepper, onion and egg sub, fries.

Thursday

Roast pork loin, gravy, baked potato, peas, applesauce.

Friday

Fajita chicken, stir fry vegetables, rice, pineapple.

Sandwiches, salad, pasta, stir fry, grill and daily specials also offered daily. Fruit, vegetable, bread and milk served with all meals.

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Accreditation process brings expectations for AHS students

BY DANA FRONCZAK
STAFF WRITER

This is not your father's accreditation process.

In the middle of a once-a-decade examination by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges (NEASC), a group of Arlington teachers recently released a new version of the Arlington High School's mission statement and expectations for students.

But unlike previous mission statements that make the grade for the accreditors and then drop by the wayside like a "D" out of a student's book bag, Mission Statement Committee Chairman John Duranseau hopes the recommendations that come out of the mission statement and the self-study now in progress have some teeth.

"It's like a restaurant inspection. These things get generated and forgotten. That's the way it's been," Duranseau said.

But now, he said, NEASC will examine the recommendations it makes during the second year and fifth year of a school's accreditation "so that if you recommend something, you're actually going to have to do it," he said.

"We've always done that," said Dr. Pamela Gray-Bennett, director of the Commission on Public Sec-

ondary Schools for the NEASC, whose offices are in Bedford. "But the school is probably correct in perceiving a more rigorous follow-up to address our recommendations."

Making it Count

In a process that started almost two years ago, a cross-section of 10 teachers from different disciplines began crafting this current version. This was eventually submitted to other teachers and students for review.

Teachers are the framers of the document because the opinion of NEASC is that they will give an honest assessment of a school's needs without giving credence to costs or public relations.

"We find that often administrators are much better managers than they are educational evaluators," Gray-Bennett said.

The mission statement passed without a hitch. But the expectations needed some work.

Duranseau said fine arts representatives insisted that there be a submission dedicated to fostering an appreciation for things artistic.

"They wanted something explicit," Duranseau explained.

At first glance, the expectations read like a students' bad dream. Arlington High School students will "take responsibility for their

learning experience." Arlington High School students will "demonstrate integrity, persistence and the ability to work independently and cooperatively."

But Duranseau said the expectations are framed that way because the NEASC requires it and in reality the statements are a challenge to teachers more than a mandate to students.

"This is what students should be able to do and each program is responsible for certain aspects of the expectations," Duranseau said.

NEASC is the nation's oldest regional accrediting association. It serves some 1,800 public and independent schools, colleges and universities throughout New England.

Bennett said the focus of NEASC is not defined by test scores or rankings, but by how things are done.

"We have a much greater focus on teaching and learning, in terms of practices the faculty and administrators engage in," Gray-Bennett said.

After a group of teachers complete a 10- to 12-month self-study, a team of NEASC evaluators will come to the campus in November.

From a Sunday to Wednesday timeframe, she said, "the team shadows students. The team examines a portfolio of student

Arlington High School mission statement

Arlington High School provides a safe, supporting, nurturing environment in which students can acquire knowledge, values, and intellectual curiosity that will lead to life-long learning. A comprehensive array of choices provides students with the tools and skills necessary to function as active and informed participants in society. The school community encourages students to develop a sense of pride in themselves, their community, and their country and it fosters an awareness and respect for ethnic and cultural diversity and individual differences.

Social Expectations for Students

Arlington High School students will:

1. Participate in school and/or community-sponsored events providing leadership, citizenship, unity and pride.
2. Foster respect for personal differences and cultural diversity.
3. Demonstrate responsible and respectful behavior as citizens of their school and community.
4. Develop the tools and strategies to resolve disagreements and conflicts.
5. Develop skills necessary to become responsible workers, employees, consumers and citizens in an ever-changing world.
6. Make informed responsible judgments regarding their personal, emotional and physical well being.

7. Gain skills in time management and decision-making. Academic Expectations for Students
8. Take responsibility for their learning experience.
9. Communicate effectively through multiple forms of expression.
10. Gather, interpret and evaluate information.
11. Learn by practical application.
12. Discover connections between their own ideas and the ideas of preceding generations.
13. Demonstrate integrity, persistence, and the ability to work independently and cooperatively.
14. Explore educational and career opportunities.
15. Utilize current technology in their educational experiences.
16. Contribute positively to the learning environment.
17. Demonstrate the ability to read critically and to think logically and analytically.
18. Demonstrate an understanding and responsibility for global and environmental issues.
19. Develop multiple strategies for problem solving.
20. Demonstrate an understanding and appreciation of the arts and humanities.

work. The team interviews teachers one-on-one. The team interviews groups of parents, the administration, the school board," Gray-Bennett said.

After this process, NEASC will produce a series of recommendations for the school system.

She said about one in four schools receive some kind of warn-

ing, "which indicates that there are deficiencies in one or more areas." Probation, a much rarer penalty, involves "significant problems in one or more areas."

Those areas include: curriculum instruction assessment, mission statement operation, leadership and organization, community supports, and school resources.

The NEASC standards are "extraordinarily high, really unattainable, but the important thing," Duranseau said, "is that you show you're working toward them."

According to the NEASC Web site, eight schools are now on probation, with Woburn being the closest to Arlington.

Robbins, Fox libraries establish new Web site

The staff and Friends of the Robbins Library announced that the official Web site of the Robbins and Fox libraries is now accessible at www.robbsinlibrary.org.

The site provides detailed information about library services, col-

lections, events and a multitude of children's programs, as well as access to the Minuteman Library Network catalog and electronic databases.

Visit the Web site and find out how to obtain a library card or reserve a free museum pass. Take a

virtual tour of the building architecture. The site was funded through the generosity of the Friends of the Robbins Library.

Kevin and Paul Murphy of Sounddomain, Inc. originally Arlington residents, were the site developers.

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DEFAMED AND FORTUNE

Defamed persons may seek both actual damages (to recover from the harm they have suffered) and punitive damages to punish the person who made the remark (to discourage others from doing likewise). Defamation involves spoken or written words that falsely and negatively reflect on a living person's reputation. Slander is a spoken defamation, while libel is written defamation (which also includes radio and television broadcasts). To prove defamation, the defamed party has to be able to establish that what was said or written about him or her was false. A defamatory action may be brought if the comments are so reprehensible and false that they affect the defamed person's reputation in the community or cast aspersions on him or her.

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COMMENT



The Birthplace of "Uncle Sam"

Samuel Wilson

EDITORIAL

School board should spike field house

A new Arlington High School field house would be a great thing for the town, but an \$8 million price tag at this time of fiscal restraint and potential cuts is not financially prudent.

Last week, the Capital Planning Committee told the Peirce Field negotiating team (Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan, Town Counsel John Maher, and Planning and Community Development Director Alan McClennen) that it removed the proposed field house from the town's capital plan. Capital Planning Committee members added that the field house could be introduced another time, if the school devised a plan to finance the remaining elementary school construction, which is expected to come in at around \$10 million over budget.

This announcement comes eight months after Town Meeting approved the \$10 million settlement with three corporate parties for the cleanup of Peirce Field, the adjoining soccer field, the Department of Public Works yard, and the courtyard behind AHS.

Included in the agreement is building a field house for community and school use, including a \$200,000 cap on the contaminated soil and \$2.7 million to fund a portion of an athletic facility.

Officials also estimated the cost to range somewhere from \$4 to 10 million. At that time, only five Town Meeting members voted against the agreement.

In May, Superintendent of Schools Kay Donovan said the schools would start a fund-raising campaign to limit the price tag to the town. Last week, Donovan said no fund-raising has been done yet, saying that officials "have to have the issue before us to do private fund-raising."

In addition to the \$34.5 million voters approved for the reconstruction of Perice, Stratton, Thompson, and Dallin schools, \$2.6 million approved by Town Meeting last year for the cost overruns on the Peirce project, and voter approval of purchasing the former Symmes Hospital land, the town could also face other debt exclusions in the near future if school building costs continue to soar and an override if the town places the Community Preservation Act on the fall ballot.

"If you can afford a field house, why can't you afford the elementary schools that you already promised the voters?" wondered Capital Planning Committee Chairman Charles Fosskett.

Donovan swept aside that concern, saying that the schools and field house are "two separate issues." She also said she felt the School Department has adequately addressed the question of cost overruns for the four remaining elementary schools.

Officials are also awaiting a fire station study that could show the town will need to renovate or build new fire stations. It's well-known that the three stations (Highland, Central, and Park Avenue) are in terrible condition. Building or renovating fire stations are more important than a field house.

Without the Capital Planning Committee's support, the School Committee is hoping Town Meeting will approve borrowing \$8 million to help fund an athletic facility in the spring.

The Advocate believes the town is facing just too many other pressing needs and cannot afford to pay \$8 million for an athletic complex. In this climate, a field house is a luxury.

I KNOW IT'S A LOT OF MONEY, AND CRITICS HAVE QUESTIONED IF IT WAS THE RIGHT DIRECTION... BUT GEORGE W. BUSH IS THE EDUCATION PRESIDENT! BECAUSE OF HIM, I'LL GET TO GO TO SCHOOL AND LEARN!



Inequity in kindergarten program

In 1998, an optional full-day kindergarten program was put into place in Arlington.

As described by school officials, the program provided that "all students in the mixed [kindergarten] classes, regardless if they leave early, will receive the same lessons. Projects will be scheduled in the second half of the day, giving students a chance to further explore topics they have been taught." (*The Arlington Advocate*, March 19, 1998).

According to school officials, virtually every kindergarten student's family now opts for the full-day program.

In September 2001, my child's kindergarten teacher informed us that if he only went for half-day he would miss out on half, if not more, of the curriculum. She stated that some of the core subjects, as well as most of the "educational specialists" programs, take place during the second half of the day.

The full-day kindergarten program has evolved into one that includes art, English, Spanish, health (physical education), social studies, math and science. As there is no longer a clearly defined half-day program for kindergartners in Arlington, we felt there was no option but to place our child in full-day kindergarten.

The "Curriculum Overview for Parents, Kindergarten through Fifth Grade" was published by Arlington Public Schools in February

2000. This is a wonderful resource for parents curious about the curriculum in Arlington Elementary Schools and it is available in the Superintendent's Office on the sixth floor of the high school.

It clearly states that all students in kindergarten are guaranteed the same curriculum. As an example, on Page 19 it is stated, "Our comprehensive Health Education and Phys Ed Program is offered to all students Kindergarten through Grade Five..." and page 23, "the Mathematics Program provides all students with the content and learning activities they need to achieve mathematical power..." Providing the same complete curriculum for all kindergartners is crucial, since the Grade 1 Curriculum picks up where full-day kindergarten curriculum leaves off.

There are several serious shortcomings in the current "optional full-day" Arlington kindergarten program:

There is currently no official half-day kindergarten curriculum in place.

If an official half-day curriculum is established, it would be a logistical impossibility to cram all the subjects guaranteed in "Curriculum Overview for Parents" into a half day. Since the progression through the grades is set up sequentially, it is imperative that kindergartners receive the curriculum as outlined in the book in order to be properly prepared for Grade 1.

In other words, a child must attend full-day kindergarten to be ready for Grade 1 in Arlington. In order to attend full-day kindergarten, parents are obliged to pay a \$500 fee to the town of Arlington. Since it is necessary to

attend full-day kindergarten in order to be properly prepared for Grade 1, this amounts to a mandatory fee to attend a public school. This flies in the face of the concept of "free and appropriate education" that this state guarantees.

Since the "Curriculum Overview for Parents" was published in February 2000, I contend that these points became valid at that time.

What we have in Arlington now is a very well-intentioned program, which has not yet been clearly and fully executed. By contrast, many of the cities and towns in our vicinity have carried through on their similar intentions.

Cambridge, Woburn, and Melrose all provide free full-day kindergarten for all of their kindergarten students. So do Malden, Medford, Natick, and Waltham. Watertown has offered its kindergartners full-day kindergarten, for free, for 27 years.

These programs are not administered by lottery and are not open to just some of the students, but are provided for all students in the public school system. We, the citizens of Arlington, pay property taxes, state income taxes, federal income taxes, sales taxes, etc. to pay for an excellent public school education for our children.

It is high time we understood that to fulfill our commitment to our children's education we need to fully fund a full-day kindergarten program.

Paul Sheehan has been a resident of Arlington since 1989 and has two children in the public school system.

Guest Commentary

PAUL SHEEHAN

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Newsletter concerns

I was with great disappointment that I read the article "School Committee, teachers' union spar" (*The Arlington Advocate*, Jan. 10).

As a member of the Arlington Education Association (AEA) for almost 27 years, I had to leave the union when I assumed an administrative position in the schools. Regardless of the merits of the union's grievances, I feel that the manner in which they were addressed in the union newsletter, as quoted by *The Advocate*, does not further the cause of good communication between the parties.

While I was not present at the School Committee meeting, it seems from the article, that the important grievance for which many staff members attended, was overshadowed by the bickering over the content of the newsletter — at least that is what *Advocate* subscribers will read.

Admittedly, when teachers are pitted against the school system and its administrators, they are at considerable disadvantage. Teachers cannot legally strike. Teachers must continue to work while grievance procedures, with all their attendant delays, are followed through.

Furthermore, because of the perception that educators have vacations and summers off, citizens are often unsympathetic to teachers' concerns. (I have yet to meet an excellent teacher who has

not worked weekends, vacations and summers to improve his/her craft.)

Nevertheless, the tactics employed in the newsletter, in my opinion, do nothing to enhance the teachers' image. Portraying the administration (professional individuals) and School Committee members (elected public officials) as childish storybook characters minimizes the importance of the grievances.

Furthermore, it imbues the serious business of education with a gratuitous frivolity. Having been in both camps, I now believe teachers' most serious mistake is not to insist on being treated professionally, whether it is by students, faculty, parents or administrators. Articles such as these erode whatever professional respect we may now enjoy.

An unintended and ultimately more harmful result may be the effect these newsletters have had on our new, mostly younger staff members. I have spoken to some new teachers at the high school who were puzzled by the characters in earlier newsletter articles.

Not knowing the identity of "Big Mama" or the "Council of Seven," they wondered whether they were being excluded from some exclusive, in-house joke, to which only veteran teachers were privy. Let us keep in mind after all, that new teachers pay the same union dues as veteran teachers. Given the general apathy that I remember as a member of the

union, these articles do little to encourage new teachers from participating in the important task of teacher representation.

Finally, while satire can be a powerful tool to gently raise the awareness of individuals for a cause, there is a fine line, which if crossed, can have unintended results. In this case, it undermines the effectiveness of all hardworking and dedicated teachers in Arlington. Harry Potter's cloak may or may not be the proper allegorical device in teacher-administrator relations, but it will be totally useless at the negotiating table.

Pasquale Tassone
Director
Performing and Visual Arts
Arlington High School

Alewife forum

I would like to encourage Arlington residents to attend an upcoming regional forum on flooding, sewer and storm water systems and water quality in the Alewife area to be held on Thursday, Jan. 31, at 7 p.m.

As the Arlington residents who live near our town lines well know, flooding and other water problems ignore municipal boundaries. Especially in the Alewife region, where aggressive building and paving over the years has dramatically reduced the natural drainage system provided by the once extensive Alewife marshes, flooded basements and yards and overflow of

untreated sewage from the Alewife brook are a too common occurrence.

These challenges are only likely to worsen if one or more of the three major commercial and residential developments (at the Mugar, Belmont Uplands and the former Faces nightclub sites) currently proposed on Route 2 at the nexus of Arlington, Belmont and Cambridge are built.

Organized by the Belmont Citizens Forum and Mystic River Watershed Association, and sponsored by the Arlington Land Trust, the forum will be at Temple Beth El auditorium on Concord Avenue in Belmont.

Grace Perez, executive director of the Mystic River Watershed Association, will open the forum by reviewing the water problems in Arlington, Cambridge and Belmont and explaining the relationships between flooding, sewage overflows, and pollution of our streams. Municipal engineers from the three communities will explain what each community is doing to address these problems. Maria Van Dusen, former head of the Massachusetts Riverways Program, will be moderator.

The presentations will be followed by an extensive citizens' question and answer period. A number of experts on water and watersheds, including members of planning boards, conservation commissions and other municipal officials from the three com-

SEE LETTERS, PAGE 11

The Arlington Advocate

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It is the goal of The Arlington Advocate to provide our readers with the highest quality local coverage they desire and need. In a newspaper that is accurate, timely and filled with an intimate and lively portrait of the community in which they live, work and play.

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